

DRAFT
Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee
March 21, 2006
Meeting Summary

Name	1/10/06	3/21/06	5/16/06	7/18/06	9/19/06	11/21/06
William Arnold						
William Bronrott	✓					
Deborah Brown	✓					
Larry Cole	✓					
Tom Fitzpatrick	✓					
William Frick	✓	✓				
Art Holmes						
Linda Katz Sobel	✓	✓				
Erwin Mack		✓				
Tom Manger						
Pam Miller	✓					
Sue Morris	✓	✓				
Sylvia Morrison						
Marilyn Praisner						
Kathy Porter	✓	✓				
Deborah Snead	✓	✓				
Staff:						
Lisa Rother	✓	✓				
Matthew Greene		✓				
Ronald Smith	✓	✓				
Fred Lees		✓				
Pat Bradley	✓					

Attendance note: Fred Lees is the new DPWT staff representative to the Committee, replacing Pat Bradley.

Minutes were approved with the amendment that meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, not the third Thursday as was originally listed in the minutes.

Matt reported that recruitment for new members is progressing. There are 5 prospective members from the previous recruitment who will be contacted to see if they are still interested in serving. There is an interest in having a Hispanic representative on the committee.

Kathy Porter introduced Katherine Kelly, Second Vice-Chair of the Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee. The Committee is working to advance issues of pedestrian safety in Takoma Park. They are eager to participate in coordination efforts with the County, State, and other entities that are working in the area. The Committee has 8 members and includes membership by a planner, engineer and elementary school teacher, along with other citizens.

An announcement was made that the Street Smart campaign kickoff took place that morning in Alexandria. Press coverage of the event was excellent, both on radio and TV. The County was represented by John King.

A discussion of the public forum to be held in May in Takoma Park followed. Erwin Mack requested that people from his multi-jurisdictional committee in the Crossroads area be included in the forum. Bill Frick requested that there be an overview of the community, including a demographic profile, to open the forum. Mayor Porter said that the Safe Roadways Committee had done a similar background presentation for the City Council and she thought that they could prepare something similar for this. It was suggested and agreed that preparing a "laundry list" of issues and places of concern (in Takoma Park) would be helpful and might be presented at the meeting.

Bill Frick explained the draft agenda devised by the subcommittee. PSAC members generally agreed with the outline. A subcommittee to continue the work was appointed, comprised of Bill Frick, Sue Morris, Erwin Mack, Bill Bronrott, Linda Katz, Katherine Kelly, Larry Cole, and Kathy Porter. It was suggested that the Chairperson of the Safe Roadways Committee, Laurie Kelly, might also be asked to help plan the May meeting. Matthew Greene will coordinate the work of the subcommittee. It was recommended that representatives of the Blair Walk project at Blair High School be invited to the forum.

The need for publicizing the forum was discussed. The City will publicize it in their newsletter and the County will issue a press release and send an email notification to the pedestrian advocates list. A discussion of how best to include non-English speakers focused on how to reach the citizens who may not be literate in their native languages. There was a recommendation regarding illustrative information that uses visual images instead of words to educate people about the rules regarding safe pedestrian activity.

A discussion regarding enforcement took place. Ron Smith reported that there would be targeted enforcement in all districts this month. There was a concern expressed about the deteriorated condition of some paddle signs in crosswalks.

Linda Katz led a discussion about the Education and Enforcement Subcommittee 2006 work plan. This plan included 13 items, nine of which are continued from the 2005 work plan. New items include the community forums, enhanced enforcement of "right turn on red," pedestrian safety awareness training for bus drivers, and augmented "Safe Routes to School" activities.

It was reported that Oakland Terrace Elementary School will be the site of the next Blair Walks training during the next month. Students are also beginning outreach to other clusters to arrange training for additional high school students. Erwin Mack recommended a specific parochial school that might be interested in such a program, and he will submit the necessary information to explore such a partnership.

There was a suggestion that bus drivers be supplied with reflectors to hand out to patrons who routinely ride their buses. This would be both a goodwill effort for RideOn as well as a pedestrian safety enhancement to target people that are regular riders.

Staff reported that Action in Montgomery (AIM), a coalition of religious organizations, has identified pedestrian safety as one of their priorities for action this year. Staff will make contact with them to explore ways to take advantage of their advocacy. A speakers bureau where individuals would be trained to go into the community to speak to groups about pedestrian safety was suggested.

Lt. Smith discussed enforcement activities. He noted that traffic analysts in the Special Operations Division look for "hot spots" every spring. Then enforcement operations at selected countywide locations are conducted quarterly using grant money from the state, while other enforcement operations are coordinated at the police district level during the year. Lt. Smith reported that speed camera deployment will take place over the next six months. A test was done of the cameras and a high percentage of drivers were exceeding the speed limit on Twinbrook Parkway near Meadow Hall Elementary School. It was suggested that the money obtained from speed camera tickets be set aside for pedestrian safety activities. This is not the current policy that will be followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.